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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Command Relationships

1. In 1953 the Director of Central Intelligence and the Joint Chiefs of Staff concluded an agreement which details the wartime command relationships between components of the Central Intelligence Agency and JCS commanders [REDACTED] This agreement entitled "Command Relationships Between the CIA Organization and the Armed Forces in Active Theaters of War Where American Forces are Engaged" stemmed from the lack of clear understanding of the command exercised over the Office of Strategic Service Components by theater commanders during World War II. It was also high-lighted by the misunderstandings during the early days of the Korean action. Basically the agreement provides:

a. The CIA components [REDACTED] in an area of active military operations will be under the command of the JCS designated military commander. This command authority corresponds to that exercised over Army, Navy and Air Force components similarly assigned.

b. The commander for CIA components organized into a force within the command area of an established JCS command will be a member of CIA designated by the DCI and acceptable to the military commander. (This acceptability applies to all component commanders).

c. CIA is to retain a degree of autonomy so as to permit independent action in the performance of tasks assigned by higher authority, e.g., the NSC [REDACTED]

A copy of the agreement is attached for further reference. (Enclosure 1)

2. There are certain

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2. There are certain salient points in regard to this paper which should be constantly borne in mind:

a. The provisions of this agreement embrace the field of [redacted]

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b. This relationship applies only in active theaters of war where American forces are engaged in combat. [redacted] 25X2

c. The principles embodied in this agreement are found in Joint Action Armed Forces (JAAF). The JAAF establishes the command relationships of the Commander of a Unified Command and his Component Commanders; and the Commander of a Unified Command, the Component Commanders, and a Joint Task Force.

[redacted] 25X3

SIGNED

C. P. GABELL
Lt. Gen., USAF
Acting Director

2 Enclosures: w/orig only

1. Command Relationships Paper
(T.O. 35366 A/1 Series F, Oy 1)
2. Chart, Appendix F [redacted]

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DDP [redacted] lps (4 April 1955)

Distribution:

Cys 1 & 2 - Addressee

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5 - CD/P

6,7 & 8 - PPC

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